

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 740

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Coach Rick Johnson and the Mt. Juliet Middle School Lady Bears basketball team upon winning their second consecutive state championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful middle school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Juliet Middle School Lady Bears girls' basketball team is one such team, which recently won the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association (TSMAA) State Championship for the second year in a row and compiled an impressive season record in the process, garnering twenty-four wins to only one loss; and

WHEREAS, through a regimen of regular conditioning that started in the summer and the combination of the girls' unswerving diligence, dedication, and hard work, the team maximized their considerable talents and reached the acme of middle school athletics; and

WHEREAS, in the drive to the state championship during the postseason, the Lady Bears defeated all the best teams Rutherford County had to offer, as it bested Central Middle School by a score of 41-36 and Rock Springs by a score of 44-20; and

WHEREAS, displaying the skill and character which had powered their tremendous success throughout the season, the Mt. Juliet Middle School girls' basketball team defeated Christiana Middle School in the title game by a score of 37-35 and impressed the crowd with their characteristically composed offense, artful defense, and rebounding edge; and

WHEREAS, the team's victory and exemplary record is the pinnacle of a prestigious season in which it also won titles as champions of both the Cornerstone Classic and the Overbrook Christmas Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Panthers are exceedingly grateful for the enthusiastic support provided by Coach Rick Johnson, without whom none of their triumphs would have been possible; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Rick Johnson provided expert guidance and leadership for these young women throughout their outstanding season; and

WHEREAS, the members of this extremely talented and gifted basketball team are Ashley Arvin, Paige Baugher, Rachel Bean, Gabbi Choate, Lynnze Ethridge, Robin Hardison, Allyson Hayes, Autumn Hopkins, Kennadria Lloyd, Jessica Melvin, Caylie Miller, Helen Mitchner, Cassidy Moheng, Raven Myhand, Alexis Wade, Caya Williams, and team manager Katy Harned; and

WHEREAS, the basketball players at Mt. Juliet Middle School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the court while showing the greatest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, in addition to excellent athletes, these girls are accomplished students, as they maintained a team scholastic average of 93.4 and earned the 2008 TMSAA Academic Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Mt. Juliet Middle School girls' basketball team for their success on the court and to thank them for serving as fine examples of Tennessee's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Mt. Juliet Middle School in celebrating the Lady Bears basketball team's TMSAA State Championship, as we commend the talented young women who accomplished this supreme success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.